

New Claim 37 is supported by Claims 10 and 25 as originally filed.

New Claim 38 is supported by Claims 10 and 32 as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-38 will now be active in this application.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

The Examiner is requiring an election of a single disclosed species from one of the following:

- 1.) The species as disclosed in Claims 10 and 11;
- 2.) The species as disclosed in Claims 13 and 19; and
- 3.) The species as disclosed in Claims 25 and 32.

Applicants elect, with traverse, the species as disclosed in Claims 10 and 11. Claims 10, 11 and new Claims 33-38 read on the elected species.

Restriction is proper only if the inventions of the restricted groups are either independent or patentably distinct, and there is a burden in searching the entire application. MPEP §803.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not provided any reasons, whatsoever, to support the conclusion of patentable distinctness. Rather, the Office has merely stated the conclusion.

Applicants make no statement regarding the patentable distinctness of the species, but note that for restriction to be proper, there must be a patentable difference between the species as claimed. MPEP §808.01(a). The Office has not provided any reasons or examples

to support a conclusion that the species are indeed patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction is improper, and Applicants' election of species is for examination purposes only.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not shown that a serious burden exists in searching the entire application.

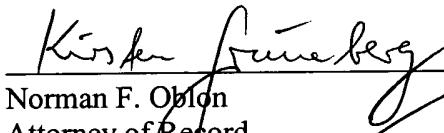
Finally, with respect to the elected species, Applicants respectfully submit that, should the elected species be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to the non-elected species.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Election of Species Requirement. Withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 33-38. (New)